

Application No. 10/780,747  
Response under 37 CFR 1.111  
Reply to Office Action dated November 1, 2006  
February 1, 2007

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-18 are pending in the application and are believed to be allowable in view of the submission of a certified translation of the Japanese priority application antedating one of the references used in both rejections.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Shimada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0152025) in view of Benham et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0114024). Claims 10-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Shimada, Benham et al. and further in view of Ihara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,552,990).


These rejections are respectfully traversed because applicant hereby submits an English translation of applicant's priority application (Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-041022). This translation proves there is support in the priority application to the February 19, 2003 priority date. This priority date is earlier than the provisional application filing date of Benham et al. which is October 10, 2003 (even assuming that Benham et al. was entitled to his provisional application filing date). Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these rejections in view of this submission.

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Applicant also submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: February 1, 2007

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